



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

August 6, 2004

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From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CARE AGREEMENT WITH AVALON MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL AND CLINIC (ITEM NO. 25, AGENDA OF AUGUST 10, 2004)

Item No. 25 on your August 10, 2004 agenda is the Department of Health Services' (DHS) request for Board approval of an agreement with Avalon Municipal Hospital and Clinic (Avalon). This agreement would provide reimbursement to Avalon up to a maximum of \$25,000 annually for emergency medical services to indigent patients on Catalina Island, effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2010. Because this action seeks a retroactive effective date, it is not in compliance with the Board-approved policy to ensure the timely submission of contracts for Board approval.

Despite the retroactive effective date, we approved placement of this item on the agenda for consideration by your Board, because the service costs to be reimbursed are directly related to patient care and the reimbursement amount is fully offset by revenues specifically identified for such emergency medical services. DHS indicates that Avalon is the only medical facility on the island and this reimbursement is critical to the facility in continuing its provision of emergency medical care. Due to the lack of timely communication between Avalon and DHS, the earlier agreement was allowed to lapse without either party confirming the need to renew the agreement and continue this funding.

To avoid issues of retroactivity in the future regarding this agreement, DHS has implemented the appropriate contract tracking mechanism for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division, and procedures are in place to identify EMS contracts that will expire within the succeeding twelve months. Additionally, EMS has increased its internal contract monitoring efforts and has notified Avalon that they are equally responsible for monitoring the expiration of this contract.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me or your staff may contact Gregory Polk at (213) 974-1791.

DEJ:DL

SAS:GP:bjs

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Director of Health Services

Avalon 08-10-04